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reading means for reading data of address information registered on the basis of
an electronic mail application program which is already in operation; and

designating means for designating the data of address information read by the
reading means as data of address information for facsimile transmission via an internet.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 3, 14, 16-18 and 20 are amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten paragraph (37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii)) and claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

I. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claim 14 because of an informality. Claim 14 is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 14 is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of
35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 16, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The claims are amended to obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 8 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,009,153 to Houghton et al. (hereinafter "Houghton"); claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,157,706 to Rachelson (hereinafter "Rachelson"); claims 14-17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,005,677 to Suzuki (hereinafter "Suzuki"); claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Houghton in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,463 to Kitagawa (hereinafter "Kitagawa"); claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Houghton in view of Kitagawa and further in view of

Rachelson; and claims 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Houghton in view of Rachelson. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The invention claimed in amended claim 1 recites a facsimile system comprising a facsimile machine reading image data from an original, a computer transmitting to and receiving from the facsimile machine data of addressee identification information indicative of at least a name of addressee and a facsimile number corresponding to the name of addressee, computer-side storage means provided at a computer side for storing the data of addressee identification information, computer-side referring means provided at the computer side for referring to the data of addressee identification information stored in the computer-side storage means, and instruction means provided in the facsimile machine so as to be instructed at a facsimile machine side to refer via the computer-side referring means to the data of addressee identification information stored in the computer-side storage means in case of facsimile transmission.

In this recited system, the computer-side referring means refers to the data of addressee identification information stored in the computer-side storage means when the instruction means gives the computer an instruction to refer to the data of addressee identification information.

Houghton discloses a setting method in which an operator uses a telephone 20 to determine operating parameter settings by a server 10 and an interactive response system. The server 10 transmits to a fax machine 5 programming signals used to program the determined operating parameter settings. In the fax machine 5, a received program is executed so that the operating parameter settings are stored. Houghton further discloses that when the operator activates a programming button on the fax machine 5 or at initial power up of the machine 5, the server 10 is automatically dialed so that the setting operation is executed by interaction with the server 10.

Rachelson discloses a communication method and system allowing users having access to a facsimile machine to send and receive e-mail easily. More specifically, an EPO 112, a provider 114 and an administrative site 100 are provided so that e-mail is sent and received

between user's facsimile machine 110 and computer 120. In Rachelson, administration of e-mail address and control of transmission and reception are carried out at the EPO 112 and administrative site 100 but not at the facsimile machine 110 side.

Suzuki discloses a facsimile device which can automatically switch between transmission via the internet and transmission via a general exchanging network without user's understanding as to whether an addressee's terminal is connected to the internet or the general exchanging network.

Kitagawa discloses a facsimile system including a server device connected to a local area network system. A plurality of client terminals are connected to the local area network system. The server device changes over communication between an ISDN and a pay-station telephone network in accordance with a command from each of the client terminals.

None of this art discloses or suggests the claimed instruction means. More specifically, none of this art discloses or suggests that the user accesses the computer at the fax machine side to refer to addressee identification information stored therein.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is distinguishable over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RJK/sld

Attachment:

Appendix
Letter to the Official Draftsperson

Date: February 28, 2002

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
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APPENDIX

Changes to Specification:

Page 2, line 27 - page 3, line 13:

The present invention provides a facsimile system comprising a facsimile machine reading image data from an original, a computer transmitting to and receiving from the facsimile machine data of addressee identification information indicative of at least a name of addressee and a facsimile number corresponding to the name of addressee, computer-side storage means provided at a computer side for storing the data of addressee identification information, computer-side referring means provided at the computer side for referring to the data of addressee identification information stored in the computer-side storage means, and instruction means provided in the facsimile machine so as to be instructed at a facsimile machine side to refer via the computer-side referring means to the data of addressee identification information stored in the computer-side storage means in case of facsimile transmission.

Changes to Claims:

Claims 1, 3, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 20 are amended.

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

1. (Amended) A facsimile system comprising:
 - a facsimile machine reading image data from an original;
 - a computer transmitting to and receiving from the facsimile machine data of addressee identification information indicative of at least a name of addressee and a facsimile number corresponding to the name of addressee;
 - computer-side storage means provided at a computer side for storing the data of addressee identification information;

computer-side referring means provided at the computer side for referring to the data of addressee identification information stored in the computer-side storage means; and

instruction means provided in the facsimile machine so as to be instructed at a facsimile machine side to refer via the computer-side referring means to the data of addressee identification information stored in the computer-side storage means in case of facsimile transmission.

3. (Amended) A facsimile system according to claim 1~~2~~, wherein the facsimile machine includes facsimile-side registering means for registering the data of addressee identification information in the facsimile-side storage means and facsimile-side output means for outputting the data of addressee identification information registered in the facsimile-side storage means by the facsimile-side registering means, the computer includes computer-side input means for receiving the data of addressee identification information output from the facsimile-side storage means by the facsimile-side output means, and the computer-side storage means stores the data of addressee identification information received by the computer-side input means.

14. (Amended) An internet facsimile machine ~~comprising~~ capable of executing facsimile transmission via an internet to an addressee, comprising:

reading means for reading data of address information registered on the basis of an electronic mail application program which is already in operation; and

designating means for designating the data of address information read by the reading means as data of address information for the facsimile transmission via the internet.

16. (Amended) An internet facsimile machine according to claim 14, wherein the electronic mail application program is in operation on ~~the a~~ computer of ~~the a~~ system

connected to the internet facsimile machine or a computer other than the computer of the system.

17. (Amended) An internet facsimile machine according to claim 15, wherein the electronic mail application program is in operation on ~~the a~~ computer of ~~the a~~ system connected to the internet facsimile machine or a computer other than the computer of the system.

18. (Amended) A facsimile system comprising:
a facsimile machine reading image data from an original;
a computer transmitting to and receiving from the facsimile machine data of addressee identification information indicative of at least a name of addressee and a facsimile number corresponding to the name of addressee;

a computer-side storage circuit provided at a computer side for storing the data of addressee identification information;

a computer-side referring circuit provided at the computer side for referring to the data of addressee identification information stored in the computer-side storage circuit; and

a instruction circuit provided in the facsimile machine so as to be instructed at a facsimile machine side to refer via the computer-side referring circuit to the data of addressee identification information stored in the computer-side storage circuit in case of facsimile transmission.

20. (Amended) A recording medium for recording a program for operating a facsimile machine, the program realizing the functions of:

reading means for reading data of address information registered on the basis of an electronic mail application program which is already in operation; and

designating means for designating the data of address information read by the
reading means as data of address information for ~~the~~ facsimile transmission via ~~the~~ an
internet.